

Filed for intro on 04/10/2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION 244
By Givens

A RESOLUTION to recognize the need to protect pets and pet owners from diseases caused by fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes.

WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of American households are pet-owning households; and

WHEREAS, pet owners historically have strong relationships with their pets; and

WHEREAS, an equally strong relationship between pets and veterinarians is important for the diagnosis of major and minor problems; and

WHEREAS, 8 million dogs do not visit the veterinarian regularly; and

WHEREAS, 19 million cats do not visit the veterinarian regularly; and

WHEREAS, the spring and summer months are prime seasons for infection of pets by fleas, ticks, and heartworms; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is in an area researchers term the "tick belt"; and

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WHEREAS, fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes carry diseases such as ehrlichiosis, rocky mountain spotted fever, lyme disease and heartworms, that can seriously affect the health of pets and pet owners, particularly children; and

WHEREAS, pet owners love their pets like any member of their family and should consider the veterinarian as a partner in helping to keep family pets healthy and happy; and

WHEREAS, many spring and summer threats to pet health and pet owners are silent and potentially fatal, but can be prevented with regular visits to veterinarians; and

WHEREAS, a veterinarian will know the best course of action to provide for a healthy pet life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we declare the spring and summer months to be an important time to provide dogs and cats with control products to protect pets and pet owners, particularly children, against diseases caused by fleas, ticks and mosquitoes, and further, urge pet owners to visit their veterinarians during the month of April 2002 to learn how to protect dogs and cats against potential spring and summertime diseases and illnesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.